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Patent

U.S. Appl. Ser. No.: 10/054,638

Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

Amendment of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): An immunological composition comprising a combination of two, three, or four distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein each of the conjugates comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup of A, C, W-135 or Y conjugated to a carrier protein, wherein at least one serogroup is W-135 or Y.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 18, wherein at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* serogroup of A or C.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of two distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein said immunological composition comprises a the first conjugate comprises comprising a purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* serogroup W-135 and a the second conjugate comprises comprising a purified capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of *N. meningitidis* serogroups Y, A and C *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of serogroups Y, A and C.

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Claim 23 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said two distinct and separately made purified protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein the first conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y and the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of ~~serogroups~~ serogroup A or C.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 26, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 26, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said three distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein the first conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide from *N.*

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meningitidis of serogroup W-135 and the second conjugate comprises a the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of Y, A and C and the third conjugate comprises a the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of serogroup Y, A and C, wherein the second conjugate is different from the third conjugate.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein ~~at least one of the second conjugate and the third conjugate~~ comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein ~~at least one of the second conjugate and the third conjugate~~ comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein ~~at least one of the second conjugate and the third conjugate~~ comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said four distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein the first conjugate comprises a the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup W-135, the second conjugate comprises a the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup Y, the third conjugate comprises a the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup A, and the fourth conjugate comprises a the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup C.

Claim 34. (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 18 further comprising an adjuvant.

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Claim 35 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 34, wherein said adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of aluminum adjuvant, Freund's adjuvant, (N-(2-Deoxy-2-L-leucylamino- β -D-glucopyranosyl)-N-octadecyldodecanoylamide hydroacetate), (3- β -[N-(N',N'-dimethylaminoethane)-carbamoyl]cholesterol) "DC-chol", Poly[bis(carboxylatophoxy)phosphazene] and/or Poly[di(carboxylatophoxy)phosphazene] "pcpp", monophosphoryl lipid A, oligodeoxynucleotide motifs "CpG", ~~saponin adjuvants "QG-21"~~ "QS-21", cholera toxin, and formyl methionyl peptide.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 35, wherein said aluminum adjuvant is aluminum hydroxide.

Claims 37-45 (cancelled)

Claim 46 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 34, wherein said carrier protein is a single carrier protein species.

Claim 47 (cancelled)

Claim 48 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 46, wherein said single carrier protein species comprises an inactivated bacterial toxin from a ~~bacterium~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~Corynebacteria diphtheriae, Clostridium tetani, Bordetella pertussis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Escherichia coli~~ diphtheria toxoid, CRM197, tetanus toxoid, pertussis toxoid, E. coli LT, E. coli ST, and Pseudomonas aeruginosa exotoxin A.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 48, wherein said inactivated bacterial toxin is ~~derived from Corynebacteria diphtheriae~~ diphtheria toxoid.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 48, wherein said inactivated bacterial toxin ~~derived from Corynebacteria diphtheriae~~ is CRM197.

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Claim 51 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 33, wherein said composition is formulated as a sterile liquid.

Claim 52, 53, 54 and 55 (cancelled)

Claim 56 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 33, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable preservative.

Claim 57 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 56, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable preservative is selected from the list group consisting of benzyl alcohol, parabens, thimerosal, chlorobutanol, and benzalkonium chloride.